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EXTRACTS OF LETTERS

FROM

POOR PERSONS

WHO EMIGRATED LAST YEAR

TO

CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES.

PRINTED FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE LABOURING POOR,
AND THEIR FRIENDS IN THIS COUNTRY,

BY G. POULETT SCROPE, Esq.

F.R.S., F.G.S., &c.

Second Edition, with Additions.

LONDON:

JAMES RIDGWAY, PICCADILLY.

M.DCCC.XXXII.

*. Price Sixpence each, or Five Shillings per Dozen.

TILLING, PRINTER, CHELSEA.

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EDITOR'S PREFACE.

TO THE

SECOND EDITION.

IN printing a Second Edition of these Letters, I take the opportunity of saying a few words on the general question of Emigration. There are some persons, I believe, who still treat its advocates as visionary schemers. To such I would respectfully suggest the following simple considerations.

The population of these kingdoms is notoriously excessive as compared with the demand for labour. The consequence is, that many an able-bodied man, anxious to support himself and his family by his industry, is unable to obtain employment, and reduced to pauperism here, to mendicancy in Ireland; becoming a burden to his country instead of a valuable instrument of production. Large numbers of these persons are every winter on the verge of starvation, pro-

tracting a life of misery on an average allowance from their parishes of $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per day to each individual in a family.

Now, so long as there exist, within a few days' sail, parts of the British Dominions where the labour of these persons is in such demand that they could obtain by it for themselves and their families an abundance, not only of necessities, but of comforts even, and luxuries—and to which they may be conveyed for less than the cost of keeping them in idleness and misery during one twelvemonth in this country—it does appear evident that their removal to such a comparative paradise at so small a cost, should they be willing to go, (and how many of them would refuse?) is the simplest and most eligible means for improving their condition. It is clear, too, that their removal in this manner would equally relieve their fellow-labourers who remain at home, and whom their competition in the labour-market now depresses to one common level of pauperism—would free the country from the burden of supporting a large body of unprofitable, and often criminal and turbulent, because unemployed and miserable, paupers—in short, would put an end to all the evils that are confessedly occasioned by the redundancy of our labouring

population, and replace them by the benefits which must accrue to Britain from a rapidly increasing and prosperous colonial population, employed in growing food for us on the rich soils of America, and exchanging it with our home manufacturers for the produce of their labour.

Whether the existing redundancy may or may not be likewise more or less removed by legislative or financial improvements, such as would diminish the burdens and stimulate the exertions of the productive industry of this country, is what I do not here attempt to determine. I propose Emigration as a sure and easy relief to redundancy, whenever and wheresoever it is found to exist, as it confessedly does at present in Britain and Ireland; should circumstances alter, and the redundancy disappear, the process of Emigration may be laid aside until it is again required. But so long as the *real* wages of labour, that is, the quantity and quality of food and clothing which a labourer can obtain for his services, continue (*as they are at present*) in one part of the British dominions from ten to twenty times as much as they are in another—so long, indeed, as the difference is at all considerable—so long will the most obvious mode of improving the

condition of the labourer in the latter part, be to assist him to remove to the former. The comparative rate of wages is, indeed, the true test of the advantages of Emigration, and of the expediency of giving that direction to our efforts for the relief of the poor.

Let us remember that Emigration is nothing more than the simple *spreading* of population, as fast as it increases inconveniently in any limited district; that it is the natural process by which the world has been hitherto peopled, so far as it has yet been peopled—which is to no great extent, as compared with its almost boundless resources for the support of man;—that it is the only way of fulfilling the Divine command, “Increase and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue the uttermost parts of it;” and that if former generations had felt the same foolish prejudices against Emigration which many persons have lately evinced, *all America* would have remained abandoned to savages—instead of containing the thirty millions of civilized whites, who are now settled, and rapidly increasing upon it;—nay, that had our early forefathers, when they felt their numbers increasing beyond their means of subsistence, directed their efforts, according to the advice of the Malthusian phi-

losophers, to check the increase of their numbers, *by* what is called "prudential restraint," or any other means, instead of spreading over distant soils in search of an increase of food, the whole human race might, perhaps, at this moment, have been limited to a single patriarchal family, occupying a single island or valley,—while the regions, now swarming with happy and industrious beings—beings born for immortality, and every day improving in knowledge and civilization—would be a wilderness of jungle and morass, tenanted only by reptiles and brutes!

These plain considerations lead *me at least* to the conclusion, (a conclusion in accordance with all our conceptions of the wisdom and benevolence of the Creator,) that if want afflict the inhabitants of any of the older states, if their numbers at any time press injuriously on their means of providing subsistence, it is owing, not to any inherent law of Nature, (such as the antipopulationists have for years past paraded as a bugbear before a too credulous public,) but only to the misdirection of their means; and, above all, to their neglecting to avail themselves of the resource of Emigration to the fertile and yet uncultivated wastes of the globe, whence their labour, aided by the knowledge of the arts of

civilized life which they bring with them, would extract abundance;—that nothing is easier than to cause subsistence to increase faster than *can* population; that there exists no necessity for placing any restraint on the natural and providential tendency of mankind to increase; but that, on the contrary, by a wise, and timely, and prudential direction of their efforts, individual and collective, the happiness of the human race may be made to increase with, and in proportion to, its numbers.

“ *Spatium Natura beatis
Omnibus esse dedit, si quis cognoverit uti.*”

G. P. S.

*Castle Combe,
January 1, 1832.*

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INTRODUCTION.

IN the beginning of last year (1830) a strong desire to emigrate to America, shewed itself among the labouring population of the parish of Corsley, near Warminster, in Wilts. They, like their fellow labourers throughout the south of England, had been long suffering from want of work and low wages. It happened that a certain Joseph Silcox, the brother of a respectable farmer of that parish, had lately returned from Canada, after a residence there of two or three years ; and being a dissenting preacher, he had frequent opportunities of holding forth to his neighbours on the vast difference between the condition of industrious labourers in this country and in America, and on the advantages they would derive from emigrating there. He declared his own intention of returning immediately ; and a considerable number of his neighbours became desirous of following his example.

With this view some labourers who possessed property sold it in order to pay the expences of their voyage. Others, who had not wherewithal to do this, resorted to the parish, and begged earnestly to be assisted to remove from a place where they could not obtain a living and were a burden to their neighbours, to one where they understood that by honest industry they might maintain themselves and their families in comfort and independence.

The parish officers, being thus importuned, and being also of opinion that the removal of several families who had long been, and would, most probably, long continue to be, a heavy and still-increasing charge upon their rates, must prove as great a relief to the rate-payers as to the poor themselves, consented to give the aid that was asked of them: and for this purpose raised a sum of a few hundred pounds, partly by the sale of two houses belonging to the parish, and partly by subscription; the Marquis of Bath, the principal landed proprietor in the parish, contributing £50. The expences of some families and single labourers were paid in full. To others partial assistance was given according to their circumstances. In the whole sixty-five individuals left the place, and embarked for Canada, in a vessel which sailed from Newport, in Glamorganshire, the 7th of April, 1830.

Accounts have since been received from many of the emigrants, by letter to their friends in

Corsley and the neighbourhood ; and the following are extracts from several of these, the originals of which are in the hands of respectable persons of Corsley, and may be seen by those who desire it. The reason why it has been thought advisable to publish only a selection of passages from these letters, instead of the whole, is that the greater part of them is made up of repetitions of information already given, of remembrances to friends in England, and other matters of no public interest, which it would have been a useless expence to print. But there has been no concealment of unfavourable passages or accounts. In fact, I am assured, that no such accounts have been received at all, directly or indirectly, from any of the emigrants. The tenor of all their communications has invariably been to the effect that, though those *who are foolishly home-sick*, may be dispirited for the first few weeks, and those *who will not work* are not likely to be better off in that country than in any other, *any labourer or mechanic, who is willing to exert himself, may be sure of obtaining full employment at high wages, and the very best of living* ; employment, not for the man only, but for every member of his family likewise, down to children of six years old ; with the prospect of purchasing land on exceedingly cheap terms, out of his savings, if he choose to set up as an independent farmer on his own property.

It may be added that, encouraged by these favourable accounts, similar emigrations have taken

place in the spring of *this* year, from the neighbouring parishes of Westbury, Frome, and Warminster; and the accounts that have arrived from the emigrants immediately upon their landing, are as favourable as could have been hoped for.*

The expence of the voyage and outfit of these persons, including 20s. or 30s. given them upon landing, to find their way farther up into the country, where work is most plentiful, amounted, on an average, to about Six Pounds a head. The voyage to New York, and other parts of the *United States*, may be effected something under that cost; but common *labourers* are more in demand in Canada than in the United States. Mechanics of all sorts, manufacturers, and gardeners, however, may go out to either country, with a certainty of employment, at high wages. Unless the emigrants have some little money at their command, it is not advisable for them to go out in the autumn. But by starting early in the spring, they will find the demand for labourers every where very brisk immediately on their arrival.

The passage is usually from three to six or

* By accounts received by Government, it appears, that though upwards of fifty thousand emigrants landed during the last summer at Quebec, and Montreal alone, they have all been taken into employment up the country, without even occasioning any fall in the high price of labour, which is still as much in demand as before. In fact, labourers there so soon become capitalists, and employers of labour, that the demand increases with the increase of the supply.

eight weeks. It is best for emigrants to take but little baggage with them beyond their wearing apparel, bedding, and utensils for cooking on the passage. They should also lay in their own provisions. If they contract for their food with the captain of the vessel they embark in, it is not likely to be of so good a quality. The kind of stock recommended by those who have made the passage, is flour, potatoes, bacon, and, perhaps, a little salt beef, rice or oatmeal, tea, sugar, coffee, apples, or other fruit; some or all of these things, according to the taste of the parties. The flour can be baked into fresh cakes when wanted, which are much more agreeable and wholesome than sea biscuits.

Merchants at Bristol, or any other of the principal shipping ports, will contract to carry out emigrants, with parties in this country who may be willing to pay for their passage. But there is every reason to believe that the Government Commission, lately appointed for the purpose of assisting voluntary emigration, will be able to offer more advantageous and satisfactory terms than any private individuals. Those who wish to make arrangements with, or obtain information from this Commission, should address their letters, 'To the Emigration Commission, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, London.'

The following remarks upon Upper Canada, the Colony to which most of the Corsley emigrants

proceeded, and which on the whole offers the greatest advantages, are collected from the best and most recent authorities on the subject.

Upper Canada is a British Province in North America, within a few weeks' sail of this country, and subject to the same government and laws. The climate is good, and nearly the same as in England ; the summer is warmer, and the winter, perhaps, a little colder. All the fruits, grain, and vegetables of England thrive well, with the addition of some, as Indian wheat, which cannot be grown with the certainty of ripening in this country. Peaches and apricots ripen on standard trees in the orchards, and the apples are remarkably fine ; melons likewise grow luxuriantly in the open air. Samples of the wheat of Canada are not inferior to the best English.

The country is well adapted for farming purposes, the land being generally level, covered with large timber of a variety of very useful qualities, and watered by fine streams and several navigable lakes. The soil is light and easily worked, yet so rich, being a deep black mould composed of decayed vegetables, as to bear plentiful crops for many years in succession without manure.

Freehold land of the best quality, and in favourable positions is to be purchased in any quantities, large or small, at from 5*s.* to 20*s.* per acre ; one fifth of the money only being paid down, and the remainder in small annual instalments which a

settler is well able to clear out of his crops within four or five years, besides maintaining himself and family, and increasing his stock.

The population of the province consists almost wholly of persons from Great Britain who have gone there to settle. The English language is universally spoken. Society is on the best footing. The utmost kindness, hospitality, and good fellowship, exists among neighbours, as might indeed be expected in a country overflowing with an abundance of the substantial blessings of life, and where there is room for every one to follow his own business without jostling or interfering with his neighbours. The taxes are very trifling, and there are no tythes or rates. There are churches and meeting-houses for all persuasions in every town, and in most villages; and service is regularly performed in them. The wages of labourers are very high, and they are usually boarded by their masters, taking their meals at the same table with them, and eating and drinking the best of every thing. The earnings of mechanics of all descriptions are still higher in proportion, as may be seen from the table in the last page of this publication, which contains also a statement of the market prices of most articles of consumption. These are as remarkably low.

It appears, indeed, extraordinary, and, at first, almost incredible, to those who are accustomed to judge of other countries by their experience in

this, that wages should be so high as they are represented to be in America, whilst agricultural produce of all kinds sells at so low a rate as compared to prices here. And many will suppose that on this account, however favourable such a country may be to labourers, it cannot be equally so to farmers. But, on the contrary, the great and increasing demand for labourers and mechanics *proves*, beyond question, that farmers *do* find it very profitable to employ them, even at high wages, and in spite of the seemingly low prices they obtain for their produce. The key to the riddle is the exceeding natural fertility of the soil, which needs only to be cleared from trees, scratched over by the plough, and the seed roughly thrown in, to produce crops of 5 or 6 quarters to the acre; and this for ten years together without any rest or manure. Where land, *such as this* is to be *bought in fee* for a few shillings the acre, and cultivated *free of rent, tythes, rates, or taxes*, it may be easily understood that what we in England should call very low prices, may be *high there*, and enable the cultivator to pay high wages, and yet to reap an equally high profit on his capital. The settlers in fact do thrive very rapidly. As Mr. Beilby asserts in the last of the following extracts,—and the fact is confirmed by many other authorities—“there are persons to be met with who came from England ten years ago *without a shilling*, and who now possess farms with 70

or 80 acres of land cleared, eight or ten stacks of corn, besides well-filled barns, horses, horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry,—every thing in short that is wanted to render them contented and happy.” More than one of the following letters exhibit the *English pauper* turned into an independent farmer, cultivating his own land, *at the end of a short half-year* from his quitting his native parish in a state of destitution.

Indeed, supposing a labourer to put by 3s. a day, which is less than half of his harvest wages, he will have saved £27. in six months; which is sufficient to pay the first instalment on a farm of 50 or even 100 acres, and to purchase the necessary seed and stock, and maintain him, (working out occasionally for his neighbours,) while he is getting his land in order, and preparing his first year's crops. After this, every thing is smooth before him, and, with industry and prudence, his prospects must be getting brighter, and his property on the increase, every succeeding year. And this happy position (the happiest perhaps the world affords) is attainable by any labourer in this country, possessed of health and strength, who can procure the small sum necessary to take him out, either from his own resources, or through the kindness of his friends, and those who interest themselves in his welfare. Even if he have a family, though the expence of his voyage is increased, the advantages he can

obtain on his arrival in Canada are increased in proportion; for in that country a family, instead of being a burthen to a man, is a source of profit and wealth to him, as well as of domestic happiness.

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EXTRACTS

OF

LETTERS FROM EMIGRANTS.

N.B. The spelling is corrected. The wording left as in the originals.

1. *From W. CLEMENTS, (day-labourer, of Corsley, Wilts,) dated Port Talbot, Upper Conada, Oct. 10, 1830.*

“ My dear Father, I thank God I am got to the land of liberty and plenty. I arrived here on the 9th July. I had not a single shilling left when I got here. But I met with good friends that took me in; and I went to work at 6s. per day and my board, on to this day. And now I am going to work on my own Farm of 50 acres, which I bought at £55., and I have 5 years to pay it in. I have bought me a Cow and 5 pigs. And I have sowed $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of Wheat, and I have 2 more to sow. I am going to build me a house this fall,

if I live. And if I had staid at Corsley, I never should have had nothing. I like the country very much. I am at liberty to shoot turkeys, quail, pigeon, and all kinds of game which I have in my back wood. I have also a sugar bush, that will make me a ton of sugar yearly. The timber is very fine. We sow but one bushel of wheat to an acre, and the increase is about 50. One single grain will bring from 30 to 60 ears. The land in general is black peat and sandy loam. My wife and two sons is all well and happy, and thankful that they are arrived over safe; and wish father and mother and all the family were as well provided for as we be. If the labouring men did but know the value of their strength, they would never abide contented in the old country. Cows are worth from 50s. to £3. 10s. Sheep, large and fat, is worth 10s. 6d. Oxen from £5. to £6. No poor-rate, no taxes, no overseer, no beggars. The wheat that is left in the fields would keep a whole parish. Several of them that came out with us are near, Joseph Silcox within 2 miles, &c."

2. *From JAMES TREASURE, (shoemaker,) Yarmouth, U.C. August 9th, 1830.*

"I see plainly there will be work enough if I had two or three hands. I have a great deal more than I can do now, and they tell me it will come in faster after harvest; but there is no possibility of getting hands. I have 13s. 6d. for

making a pair of Wellington boots, the leather being found me. This will go nearly as far again in provisions here as at home. The price for making men and women's shoes is both alike, 4s. 6d. for light and 3s. 6d. for strong. They find their own thread too. I can now save money very fast, and shall soon be able to buy my own leather, which will be more profitable. The neighbours are very kind. They all want us to visit them. We have as much as we like fetching of potatoes, french beans, green peas, onions, cucumbers, &c. from any of the neighbours with a hearty welcome. The best mutton is $2\frac{1}{2}d.$ per pound. Veal 2d. Butter 6d. We have all, through mercy, enjoyed excellent health. The Climate is perhaps a little warmer here than at home, but I don't find any great difference. Flour, I should have said, is three farthings per pound. Land is from 9s. to 18s. per acre. All who came over with us like the country very well." "There is not a doubt but all who are willing to work would get a plenty, and good pay. Mechanics, they say, are wanted very bad. I have no doubt, but after we are a little more settled, we shall be able to save 30s. a week. The people here wonder that more do not come. We were told at New York, that 7,000 had landed there in about four or five weeks, and 200 families were landed at this creek this summer; but they are all lost like a drop in a bucket. We are a great deal better and comfortabler than we expected to be in so short a time. I want to

advise you all to come, for here we are all free from anxiety as to getting on. I should be happy to hear that two or three thousand was coming from Frome. It would be the best thing in the world for them. Here would be plenty for them to do, and plenty to eat and drink. In this there is no mistake. I seem now to want to tell this, that and the other story, about men who came here without a single shilling, but have now good farms of their own, but they would be too numerous. I can only say that all the good accounts I have heard of America, I now believe to be correct, &c."

3. *From PHILIP ANNETT (day-labourer, of Corsley) Port Talbot, U. C. May 24th, 1830.*

"I think you was better sell your house and get a little of the parish, and come to Canada whilst you have a chance. If you don't come soon it is likely you will starve, and if you don't, your children will; whilst if you was to come hither with your family, any one would be glad to take 1 or 2 of them and keep them as their own children, until of age, and then give them 100 acres of land and some stock besides. I was agreeably surprised when I came here to see what a fine country it was. It being excellent land, bearing crops of wheat and other corn for 20 or 30 years without any dung. Here you have no rent to pay, no poor-rates, and scarcely any taxes. No game-keepers or Lords over you. Here you can go

and shoot wild deer, Turkeys, Pheasants, Quails, pigeons, any other sort of game, and catch plenty of fish without molestation whatever; here you can raise every thing of your own that you want to make use of in your family. You can make your own soap, candles, sugar, treacle, and vinegar, without paying any duty. Clothing is as cheap as in England. Wages is high. A man can get two bushels of wheat for a day's work in harvest time. We have plenty of fruit here, such as plumbs and grapes, and peaches. Cyder is sold at 5s. per barrel; it is a land of liberty and plenty. I think no Englishman can do better than come as soon as possible, if it cost them every farthing they have, for I would rather be so here than in England with £100. in my pocket. Robert can come and get a good farm here in the course of 3 or 4 years at shoemaking. I think he could earn and save beside keeping himself £50. a year. I am sure he could. It grieves me concerning you in England in poverty and hard labour. A man can earn enough in 3 days to last him all the week. I am satisfied with the country, and so is Luesa; for we are so much respected here as any of our neighbours, and so would you if you come, &c."

4. *From JOSEPH SILCOX, (glazier, of Corsley, and dissenting preacher,—paid his own passage) Southwold, near Port Talbot, Upper Canada, May 26, 1831.*

“ We are enjoying a very good state of health and spirits, and are doing extremely well. We have planted and sowed to oats, potatoes, and Corn, about 18 acres. I have eight acres of Indian corn and three of wheat, which looks well. My prospect is very good. The boys chopped off 9 acres last winter, which we are now just going to clear off. We shall sow this fall as much as 19 acres of wheat, if we have our health during the summer to clear off the land and get our fallow in order. I have purchased 50 acres of land for the sum of £43. 15s., with 14 acres of improvement on it, where I have sowed my peas and oats, and where I shall mow hay enough to winter my cattle. My stock consists at present of one yoke of oxen, two Cows, one yearling heifer, one mare and colt, four spring calves, two breeding sows, 11 pigs, 32 geese, and a few sheep, &c. The boys are all extremely well satisfied with the country, do get on well with their work (with looking after.) They say, if Lord Bath was to give us Corsley farm rent free, they would rather stay here on our own land than live in England. John he says he would not regard the journey back provided his father and mother would return with him. My wife desires me to persuade any or all of her friends

to come, being confident in her own mind they would be satisfied here, as she likes the country better than she do England, providing her friends were here. For my part I am of the same opinion, altho' I do not persuade any one to leave England because I have left it. But a well-stocked farm of 200 acres rent free in England would be no temptation to me to leave America. If any of my relations or friends think proper to come, I will make them as comfortable as possible, and if they come out next spring, I shall, if Providence bless me with an increase, have plenty for 5 or 6 families. The best way is to ship at Bristol for New York, and there take a passage in the Channel boats for Buffalow, and then cross the lake to Kettle Creek, which is in the Township we live in."

5. *From THOMAS LISTER, (weaver, of Westbury)
Philadelphia, United States, April 26, 1830.*

"I hope brother William and family will come all together, for they can get spinning here. I have just begun to work in a broad loom, and I think I shall get on with it. There is hundreds of factories here, both cotton and woollen, and some weavers wanted in the same shop with me. It is a very pleasant country as ever I saw. Clear days for weeks together, not a cloud to be seen. I hope brother James and wife will come, if he is married, for a shoemaker can do very well here. Meat is very cheap, about two-pence half-penny

per pound, and flour. A pint of gin for three-pence, and there is no complaining in our streets."

6. ——— *AXFORD, mechanic.*

" Got work in a Coachmaker's shop, at Quebec, for 2 dollars a day, (11s.) I know it is a nice place for Blacksmiths and Shoemakers. We get all sorts of liquors at 6d. per quart."

7. *From JOHN DOWN, (weaver, of Frome) New York, United States, Aug. 12, 1830.*

" My dear wife,

" I have got a situation in a Factory, in a very pleasant vale about 7 miles from Hudson, and I am to have the whole management of the factory, and the master is going to board me till you come in his house." " A Farmer took me one day in his waggon into the country, from Hudson, to see a factory, and I dined with him, and he would not have a farthing, and told me I was welcome to come to his house at any time; they had on the table puddings, pyes, and fruit of all kind that was in season, and preserves, pickles, vegetables, meat, and every thing that a person could wish, and the servants set down at the same table with their masters. They do not think of locking the doors in the country, and you can gather peaches, apples, and all kinds of fruit by the side of the roads. And I can have a barrel of cider holding 32 gallons, for 4s., and they will lend me the barrel till I have emptied it. And

I can have 100lbs. of Beef for 10s. English money. Lamb is about five farthings the pound, and the butcher brings it to your door. And as for the bullocks' heads, sheep and lambs', they are thrown away, no one will eat them. I went into the market yesterday at New York, and on the outside of the market there was bullocks' and sheep and lambs' heads laying under foot like dog's meat. They cut the tongue, and throw the rest away. And I can go into a store, and have as much brandy as I like to drink for three half-pence, and all other spirits in proportion. If a man like work he need not want victuals. It is a foolish idea that some people have, that there is too many people come here, it is quite the reverse; there was more than 1000 emigrants came in the day after I landed, and there is four ships have arrived since with emigrants. But there is plenty of room yet, and will for a thousand years to come. My dear Sukey, all that I want now is to see you, and the dear Children here, and then I shall be happy, and not before. You know very well that I should not have left you behind me, if I had money to have took you with me. It was sore against me to do it. But I do not repent of coming, for you know that there was nothing but poverty before me, and to see you and the dear children want was what I could not bear. *I would rather cross the Atlantic ten times than hear my children cry for victuals once.* Now, my dear, if you can get the Parish to pay for your passage, come directly; for

I have not a doubt in my mind I shall be able to keep you in credit. You will find a few inconveniences in crossing the Atlantic, but it will not be long, and when that is over, all is over, for I know that you will like America. America is not like England, for here no man thinks himself your superior. There is no improper or disgusting equality, for Character have its weight and influence, and the man which is really your superior does not plume himself upon being so. An American, however low his station, never feels himself abashed when entering the presence of the highest. This is a country where a man can stand as a man, and where he can enjoy the fruits of his own exertions, with rational liberty to its fullest extent. There is as much attention paid to dress as at any of the watering places in England. Out in the country where I have been, you see the young women with their veils and parasols, the lowest that I saw. Poverty is unknown here. You see no beggars. Give my kind love to Father, and tell him if he was here he could soon kill himself by drinking if he thought proper, but I hope he is more steady. Give my kind love to Mother, and tell her I do not expect to see her ever any more in this world, but hope I shall meet her in the next, where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are for ever at rest. Give all the little ones a kiss for me, &c."

8. C. *HENITAGE*, (*day-labourer, from Corsley*)
October 4th, 1830.

" I have a good place of service, and have a good master. I lives 7 miles from New York. He keeps a tavern and take in drivers. I have bargained with him against Christmas, at six dollars a month, and I get five dollars more, that runs to £2. 2s., and I do have my board and washing and lodging in to it. I do sit down to table with my master every day, and now I can have a glass of wine or two every day, and not cost me nothing. It is a fine country and a free country. For the carpenters 10s. a day here, and the wheelers get about the same. But the people tell me that they get more farther up the country. Don't you be afraid to come, for you do better with £2. here than you will with £4. in England, for things are cheaper here. And poor men get good wages, for I could have five places if I was a mind, now I am got known by the people, but I have a good place and shall stay. This is the place for people to come to if they do try, for here is plenty of work here, for people don't buy things here and not pay for it. I hope I shall have a little land myself soon as well as he, and I hope I shall pay for it. This is the place to live in if a man is steady. If people did but know how people do get on here, you would all come to America, &c. &c."

9. *JAMES WATTS, (day-labourer, of Corsley)*
Lancaster, U. C. Oct. 28th, 1830.

" We had a middling good passage, and got to Quebec the 6th day of June, then I set out for Upper Canada to the above place, where I have been ever since, working at making roads at 8 dollars a month, or £1. 16s. of your money (besides board.) Will Singer and Thomas Singer are along with me upon the same wages, but William Aylsbury left this place on purpose to go home to his wife and family. Whether he will get home I don't know, but if he should, you will get all the news better than I can write. As far as I can learn and as far as I have seen, it is a good country, for any industrious man coming to this country; and if he can bring some money he will get land upon very reasonable terms, and in the course of a few years may make a very comfortable living."

10. N.B. The William Aylsbury mentioned in this letter, returned to his parish, Corsley, last winter. The overseers had refused to assist him to emigrate, and he had in consequence raised some money by sale of a few goods, and started by himself, leaving his wife and family chargeable to the parish. He arrived at Quebec on the 6th of June, he had then twenty shillings in his pocket; he took the steamer to Montreal, and proceeded thence on foot to Cornwall, in Upper Canada, where he arrived with only a shilling. He found immediate employment,

together with the writer of the last letter and others whom he had accompanied from England, on the Government Roads. His wages were 9 dollars per month besides his bed and board. He lived on pork, beef, mutton, potatoes, green peas, bread, cheese, and butter. Hands were in great request, winter as well as summer; the winter wages being 5 dollars with bed and board. Wheat was 4s. 6d. a bushel. Tea 3s. 6d. per pound. A church in the town where service was performed regularly. He came away on the 1st of November with nearly £7. in his pocket, with which he paid his passage home, where he arrived without having entirely emptied his purse. This account is taken from Aylsbury's own lips, and is worthy of attention, as shewing that the savings that can be made from a labourer's wages for about four months' work in Canada, will amply pay the expences of his passage out from his parish in England. Aylsbury is anxious to take his family back with him, having returned only to fetch them, but cannot persuade his wife to overcome her fears of the voyage.

11. *From THOMAS HUNT, (day-labourer, of Chapman-slade, in the parish of Corsley,) dated Nelson, U. C. Nov. 14th, 1830.*

"We are in a good country for poor folks; we have plenty of good fire and grog. Wheat 4s. per bushel, good boiling peas 3s. 6d. Rye 3s. Buck wheat 2s. 6d. Indian Corn 2s. 6d. Oats 2s.,

Potatoes 1s. 3d. Rum 10d. per quart. Good Whiskey 7½d. Brandy 9d. per quart. Port Wine 1s. 3d. Tea 3s. 6d. per pound. We make our own sugar, our own soap, candles, and bake good light bread. Beef and mutton 2d. per pound, &c. Fat geese 1s. 6d. Best fowls 1s. 3d. per couple. Wages £3. per month and our keep. We dine with our masters. Women 2s. 6d. a day and good keep. Good apples 1s. per bushel, &c. The price of land is about £1. per acre near the roads, some way back it is cheaper. No poor-rates, nor taxes of any consequence. I see in the paper great lamentations for our departure from Chapmans-lade. *More need to rejoice.** We three brothers have bought 200 acres of land at 12s. 6d. per acre. We have paid £25. and have £100. to pay in five years, that is, £20. a year, between three, that is £6. 13s. 4d. each. It is in Nelson, District of Gore, about 5 miles from Street, with a pretty good road to our lot. Only nine miles to Lake Ontario,

* This is the Emigrant's pithy reproof of the maudlin sentimentalities of those persons who so pathetically deprecate the "tearing away of our peasantry from their homes—the snapping asunder the ties of country, kindred, &c.," and who wax indignant at what they call "the atrocious cruelty" of the advocates of Emigration. Mighty cruelty, to be sure, the assisting families whose labour will not keep them from pauperism and misery in this country, to remove to another part of the British dominions where they may command all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life, and look forward to still higher prospects. Great cause of grief and lamentation this! 'More need to rejoice' as Thomas Hunt says. EDITOR.

a good sale for all grain. A grist mill and a saw mill within 25 chains, which is a great advantage. A good river runs right through our lot of land, and good springs rise on it. We shall never want for water, nor timber. We have several adjoining houses, chiefly English people. We can raise up a good house in a little while at little expence. We have thousands of tons of timber, and good stone for building. It is called the healthiest place in Upper Canada. We have no sickness since we have been here. Stouter than we was in England. Sarah wishes to see all her friends here. We expect to clear 20 acres by next harvest. We cut the trees about 3 feet above ground, and put fire to it, and burn it root and branch. We are about 700 miles from Quebec. That is but little here. Sarah Hunt and her five children is all well; she was confined on the river St. Lawrence. She had a very good time. She and all is very stout, never wishing to return to England, but rather all friends was here, for here is plenty of work, and plenty to eat and drink. *Thank God we are here. We all wish that our Fathers, and mothers, and brothers, and sisters was here, for here is plenty of room for all there is in England.* They that think to work may do well. But if our fathers and mothers was here, they should never be obliged to do a hard day's work, for we would keep them without work if they were not able. But if any of you should come, they must make up their minds not to be faint-

hearted. You may expect rocking, but I don't fear the raging seas. For more may come as safe as we, for the God that rules the land rules the sea. There is some come this year turned back before they knew whether 'tis good or bad. But I thank my God that we are here. Thomas Hunt, James Hunt, Jeremiah Hunt.

12. *ESAU PRANGLEY, (butcher, of Corsley) Port Talbot, U. C. Oct. 10th, 1830.*

"We arrived last July, and like the country well. Clements and I have bought 100 acres of land between us. I have about 25 acres cleared on my 50, for £70. I have paid down £12. 10s. and have five years to pay the remainder in. I have a house and barn on the place ready to go into. I have sowed $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres of wheat, &c." "Charles is doing well, he is hired by the year for £12. 10s., with board and lodging. Men's wages is from 3s. to 5s. per day, take the year round, with board. Clements and I cut and thrashed and winnowed in 4 days, 84 bushels of Peas, and for our wages got 21 bushels, being one quarter, and boarded into it. Wheat here sells for 3s. the bushel. We have a very healthy country, &c."

13. *From GEORGE LEWIS, (day-labourer, of Corsley) Dundas, U. C. July 11th, 1830.*

"We are very well provided for, with regard to a situation. We have a very good house and our fire found us, and George has wages 100

dollars a year, and all his keep ; which is much better than ever I should have found in England. My master is an Englishman, and a very good master, for he makes every thing to my satisfaction, and I am very happy to think the Lord has provided me so well, and I have to inform you I never desire to come to England any more, for we found it a troublesome journey to that happy spot where we are now situated. I have to inform you that we need not go to bed a-cold nights for want of something to keep us warm, for we can get good liquors very cheap, good rum at 5*d.* per pint, whiskey 7½*d.* per quart, &c."

14. *From WILLIAM SNELGROVE, (day-labourer, of Corsley) Dundas, U. C. Sept. 3d, 1830.*

" Dear friends, This comes with my kind love to you, hoping it will find you in good health, as it leaves us at present. Thanks be to God for it. Health is a beautiful thing ; and it depends upon God alone to give it. Was it in the hands of man, health would decline, as many other things have in England, as labour and victualling, which, if the good God give us our health, is as plentifully with us as the scarcity is with you. We have plenty of good beef, and mutton, and pork, and flour, fish, fowl, and butter ; and I'm happy to state that by one day's work, a man can supply himself with sufficient of all these necessities for 3 days. *You have a good many cold bellies to go to bed with, I know, or things is greatly altered from the state*

that it was when I was with you. But if you were with us, if you liked, for three half-pence your belly would be so warm that you would not know the way to bed. With regard to work, harvest work is one dollar a day and board, other work is three fourths of a dollar and a pint of whiskey. Wheat is from 3s. 9d. to 5s. per bushel. Butcher's meat 2d. to 3d. per lb. Cousin Henry, you may depend that all is here said is true, so that you see here is all the chance in the world for a poor man to live, &c."

15. *From WILLIAM SINGER, (bricklayer, of Corsley) Bark Street, Southwold, U. C. 15th March, 1831.*

" I have worked some at my trade. A person that can work well can get a dollar and a half a day, and in the harvest fields a dollar. I like this part of the country very well, and intend staying here this summer. I have been working on a farm chopping, and other work, but have been very unfortunate, I have cut myself four or five times. You must not think that I dislike the country on account of my misfortunes, for if I was to cut my leg right off, I should never think of returning to Corsley again, for I could do much better here with one leg than in Corsley with two. We can always have plenty of work here. We board and lodge with the person we work for. If any of my old acquaintance is got tired of being slaves and drudges, tell them to come to Upper Canada to Wm. Singer, and he will take them by

the hand and lead them to hard work and good wages, and the best of living. Any of them could do well here. Old George Silcox likes the country well; but if any of you was coming out he wishes you to bring him a quart of James Knight's strong beer, as we cannot get any so good here. We can get whiskey at half a dollar per gallon, as strong as the Gin you get in England. We have eight English families within about 2 miles, all from Westbury or Corsley. They are all well, and doing well, busy making sugar this last week. This part of the country is very fine. The winter has been more than commonly severe, but I have not found it colder than in England, &c."

16. From JOHN WEST, (shoemaker, of Corsley) Germantown, near Philadelphia, U. S. May 20th, 1831.

"I wish, and do often say that we wish you were all in this happy land. We have good food and raiment, and all the comforts of life, &c." "I have not heard one person say it was *bad times* since I have been here. There is a Poor-house here. Twenty-five old men and women is the greatest number in the winter, the main of whom are now gone. There are none paid out of the house. There is a great many ill-conveniences, but no empty bellies. 'Tis no good for a man to come here without he work hard. Farmer's men work from sunrise to sunset, all the year round; they get from 10 to 12 dollars per month and their

board, or three fourths of a dollar per day. A carpenter's and a mason's trade is a very good trade here. But they must not toss and turn a brick so many times as James Singer do. A Brick-maker is a very good trade. I was told that a brick-maker will earn two or three dollars a day at New York and Philadelphia. *A man can do better here with a family than with none. For children at 6 years old can work and get some money.* A man nor woman need not stay out of employment one hour here. *No war nor insurrection here. But all is plenty and peace.*

17. From THOMAS HUNT, (*the writer of No. 11.*)
Nelson, U. C. May 18th, 1831.

"Have built us a House on our land, and are all in a good growing state. We do think to get us a plough of oxen this summer, and a cow or two. We have got our wheat sowed. We do think to sow about 12 or 14 acres of wheat next fall. In about two years we shall be able to work all of our time on our farm, but now buying our seed and stock, we have to work out some times. We have neither wanted for food nor fire, for we have wood a plenty and to spare. We have had cold, but not suffered with it so much as we should in England. This is a country for labouring men to get their bread ; but some as will not work is poor here, and give the country a bad name. But I never wish to come to England any more. We have meeting-houses not far off. A plenty of neighbours round. &c."

18. *From JAMES WATTS, (day-labourer) Lancaster, U. C.*

“ As for the country, I think it a very good place for any one that wishes to have land of his own, for you can get land in different places from 5s. to 20s. per acre, and time to pay for it by paying one fifth of the purchase money, and the remainder in five years, by paying 6 per cent. interest, &c.”

19. *The following passages, and a list of prices and wages in Canada, are extracted from a letter of Mr. RICHARD BEILBY, an intelligent farmer, who lately emigrated to that country. It is dated York, Upper Canada, Nov. 9, 1830, and has been published by the Canada Company.*

“ Religion in this country is entirely freed from restraint. Every man is allowed in this respect to think as he pleases, and to attend what minister and what place of worship he may choose to prefer. So long as he conducts himself in obedience to the laws, which are precisely the same as those of England, he is at liberty to act as his conscience may direct.

“ Wherever my business has led me I have found friends and acquaintances, and it has been a great satisfaction to meet many of my old neighbours, whom I had known long and intimately before either they or I had thought of crossing the Atlantic

Ocean. Old country people form a great proportion of the inhabitants, and their numbers are daily increasing. It is with gratitude I mention the kindness shewn me in every part of the country through which I have travelled. I have been made welcome in all places, and have never wanted a meal or a lodging.

“ It now only remains for me to speak with respect to your plan of coming out to this country. I will not advise you directly to do so ; because we often think so differently upon a subject, that what pleases one may perhaps displease another, and because men sometimes allow their hopes and expectations to be raised to such a height as cannot be reached by anything in nature. But I can scarcely foresee any disappointment to you : on the contrary, I feel confident that every sober and industrious man, however poor he may be on arriving here, will, in the course of a few years, find himself in comfort and independence, if not in affluence. I have met with persons who came from England ten years ago without a shilling, and who now possess farms with 70 or 80 acres cleared, eight or ten stacks of corn, besides well-filled barns, horses, horned cattle, sheep, hogs, and poultry—every thing that is wanted to render them contented and happy. I have, on the contrary, met with men, who, whatever they may have had originally, are beggars now, and ever will be beggars. But these are characters whose disgusting intemperance makes them a disgrace

to themselves as well as to their country, and who must be despised and shunned by all sober men. Many inconveniences must be suffered, many difficulties overcome, both in the voyage from England and in the first settlement on lands here. But these once over, an establishment once effected, and I have little doubt that, with prudence and economy, the emigrant will receive a fair return for his toil and privation.

“ I annex a more particular statement of the present prices of farm produce in this town, and also of the common rate of wages for journeymen of different trades. You will see by these that very great encouragement is offered to industrious men generally, and to mechanics in particular.”

MARKET PRICES AT CANADA.

Wheat, pr bushel,	4s. 8d. to 5s.	=37s. 6d. to 40s. pr
Barley	3s. 2d.	=25s. 4d. [quarter.
Rye	3s. 3d.	=26s. . . .
Oats	1s. 6d.	=12s. . . .
Indian Corn . .	3s. 9d.	=30s. . . .
Peas	3s. 2d.	=25s. 4d. . . .
Flour	25s. per barrel of 196lb.	
Beef, per lb.	3d., or by the quarter,	22s. 6d. per
Mutton, ditto,	3d.	[100lb.
Pork, ditto,	3d., or 25s. per	100lb.
Tallow, ditto,	4½d. rough.	
Lard, ditto,	5d.	
Butter, ditto,	9d. fresh, 7½d. salt.	
Cheese, ditto,	5d.	

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